

East Valley Central Middle School

Bruin Choir Hand Book



Course Syllabus 2018-19

Mrs. Anne Carlson, Director
573-7679 carlson.anne@evsd90.org

Introduction

Welcome to a great new year in the East Valley Central Middle School choir program! This syllabus is designed to help answer many of the questions you may have. Please use it as a resource at any time throughout the year. This syllabus along with other information can be found on the choir webpage (under EVC - Staff), and you are always welcome to contact me via email or with the SchoolMessenger app. I am looking forward to this being a year of growth and improvement in an effort to achieve musical excellence.

Class Description

EVC's two choirs are Chorus and Chorale. They are both non-auditioned choirs which anyone may join. Students will learn basic music theory, note reading, rhythm reading, and proper vocal & choral techniques. We will perform various styles of music throughout the year, and students will have the opportunity to sing in large and small groups and individually if they are comfortable doing that.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to follow all EVC MS and EVSD rules. My classroom expectations are as follows:

- Be on time and prepared to be successful
- Make rehearsal positive and productive
- Show respect to adults & other choir members
- No gum, candy, food or beverages are allowed in class (water is recommended)
- Students will be expected to stand up frequently throughout the rehearsals to instill the best singing posture

Required Materials & Music

Students will be assigned a folder at the beginning of the year. Each student will be responsible for the contents of that folder. **Students are to have a PENCIL every day in class - this should be left in their folder once it's been assigned.**

Performance Attire

Boys: All boys are to wear black dress pants and long sleeved, white, collared, button up shirts. No sweats, jeans or cargo pants. Black dress shoes and black socks. No tennis shoes. Please do not wear cologne or body spray for the concerts.

Girls: All girls are to wear a plain white blouse and a black skirt or black dress pants. Please do not wear sleeveless or tank top blouses: all attire must meet school dress code. Skirts must come down to the knee, or longer. Nylons (black, white or beige) and black dress shoes must be worn. Please do not wear perfume, scented lotion or any jewelry, watches, or large/ colorful hair decorations that may distract our audience from the performance.

Keep in mind that we want our concerts to be a professional and classy event. That is why concert attire is required and extremely important.

Performance Schedule

Please make sure to mark concert dates on your calendar. Should any events be changed, cancelled or added, you will be notified as soon as possible. Here is a list of concert dates for the 2016-2017 school year.

09/ 27/18 - State Fair Performance, Thurs. 12:00-12:30 PM (Field Trip)

10/25/18 - Fall Concert 7:00 PM/EVC gym. (*call time 6:30 PM*)

TBA - Veteran's Day Assembly/EVC gym

1/17/19 - Winter Concert 7:00 PM/EVC gym. (*call time 6:30 PM*)

3/21/19 - Mid-Winter Concert 7:00 PM/EVC gym. (*call time 6:30 PM*)

5/29/18 - End of Year Concert 7:00 PM/EVC gym. (*call time 6:30 PM*)

Additional Events

Choir Retreats - TBD

Choir Festival - March 13 **OR** 14 at WVMS. All other info TBD

Choir Awards Potluck - Thursday, June 6th at 5:30 PM / EVC cafeteria

Choir Rehearsals throughout the year for combined choir performances.

Watch the website for dates.

Music Selection

Every year, the choir will perform a variety of genres, including sacred and secular pieces. We will perform popular music, as well as music spanning from the 1800s to today. Music will vary in its origin and language and is chosen to help teach specific vocal techniques and build skills. Music selections will be posted on our class website. If you have concerns about selected literature, please contact Mrs. Carlson.

Grading Policies

20% Participation/daily calendar

40% Written and Singing Assignments/Assessments

40% Performances

Performances

Performances are a critical learning tool for musicians as it allows us the opportunity to gain feedback from an audience and it enables us to work past our performance anxieties. Due to the immense value of these experiences, performances are a mandatory part of being enrolled in any music ensemble. If you have concerns regarding your student's ability to be at any and all performances, please contact me at 573-7679 or carlson.anne@evsd90.org.

If your student is going to miss a required performance for any reason, please submit a written note two weeks prior to the performance that fully explains why your student will miss the performance. Students who submit a note two weeks before the performance can earn up to 80% of the points by completing a make-up assignment. Students giving less than two weeks prior or after the performance will only be eligible to make up 50% of the missed points. Students may only make up points for ONE performance per academic year.

Written Assignments/Assessments

To become stronger musicians most students will need instruction on musical concepts and notation. They will be assessed on content covered in class, which will include music theory, notation, history and performance reviews.

Singing Assignments/Assessments

Students will be asked to learn music in class and will periodically be assessed on how well they are learning their part. This may be in sections, large mixed groups, or small groups. This will most often be assessed in large groups or sections.

Daily Participation & Professionalism

Students will earn up to 5 points for every rehearsal. These points are earned by fully participating in class, and following classroom rules and expectations. Each student will keep track of their own point calendar, and turn it in at the end of each week.